

the Rhine River into Germany. During the attack, the English troops landed in a German tank division and were immediately killed. Mr. Powers and the rest of Easy Company spent the following 3 months fighting for control of the same road, laying low during the day and moving at night.

After securing the road and moving out of Holland, Easy Company was then ordered to defend the town of Bastogne, Belgium, when they learned that German troops had counter-attacked along the Adrennes forest. For nearly a week, the undermanned and under-supplied Easy Company fought off a much larger German force. Easy Company lost 16 men during that week of fighting at Bastogne, and 34 more during fighting at Normandy and Holland.

A little more than a month after Hitler's forces were pushed back in mid-January, General Dwight Eisenhower met with Mr. Powers' unit in France and awarded them the Distinguished Unit Citation for holding Bastogne.

Soon after, Mr. Powers earned enough combat points to step away from the front lines of battle and return home to southwest Virginia. Mr. Powers was on his way out of combat when the truck he was riding in collided head-on with another Army truck, killing one soldier and badly injuring Mr. Powers.

After recovering from these injuries he returned home to work for Clinchfield Coal Company in Dickenson County, Virginia, for 33 years. Mr. Powers rarely spoke of the horrors of the combat he faced until producers came to him with the "Band of Brothers" HBO miniseries idea. After the success of "Band of Brothers," Mr. Powers often would receive countless expressions of support and thanks for the role he and his combat unit played in World War II. Upon Mr. Power's passing his online obituary received comments from people across the Nation and several individuals from Europe paying tribute and expressing deep appreciation for the sacrifices he made to help free Europe during World War II. In his later years, Mr. Powers dedicated a great deal of time to speak to current soldiers stationed or returning from Iraq and Afghanistan about his experiences in war and life.

The outstanding dedication and sacrifice that Mr. Darrell "Shifty" Powers displayed during his time with the United States Army will be remembered not only by countless citizens in my congressional district in southwest Virginia but also by citizens across this country and across Europe. The effects of his service to our country will be forever lasting. I want to honor the passing of a great Virginian and a great American.

MEDICARE VA REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I recently introduced H.R. 3365, the Medicare VA Reimbursement Act of 2009. This legislation authorizes the establishment of a Medicare VA reimbursement program where HHS reimburses the VA for the provision of health care to Medicare eligible veterans for the treatment of non-service-connected conditions at VA medical facilities.

Today, there are veterans who have earned VA health care benefits with their service to our country, as well as Medicare benefits, by paying into the Social Security system during their working years. Even though these individuals have clearly earned both of these benefits, current law unfairly prohibits them from using their Medicare benefits at VA facilities even though they may feel more comfortable seeking care among their fellow veterans from VA providers who specialize in caring for veterans.

This is also inconsistent with the authorities granted to other Federal entities such as the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Department of Defense's (DoD) TRICARE for Life that are allowed to bill Medicare. IHS and DoD are able to augment their resources with Medicare collections and reinvest the extra funding back into their programs and services. H.R. 3365 would provide equity in such billing practices among the Federal entities. In other words, the VA would be able to access an important new source of revenues from Medicare which may be reinvested to further strengthen the VA's health care system.

In detail, this legislation requires the Secretaries of VA and HHS to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) no later than six months after the date of the enactment of the Act. The MOU must establish such program elements as the frequency of reimbursement, the billing system, the data sharing agreement, and the payment rate.

H.R. 3365 also provides some guidelines on setting the payment rate so that the terms that contributed to the failure of the Medicare DoD Subvention Demonstration Project are not repeated again. For example, this legislation prohibits setting a reimbursement rate which is less than 100 percent of the amount that Medicare would pay a participating provider. It also prohibits annual caps on reimbursement and does not allow for a maintenance of effort requirement, which refers to the requirement that VA maintain a certain level of spending before they can be reimbursed from HHS.

Finally, H.R. 3365 requires an annual report to Congress providing program data, as well as a triennial GAO report assessing the program impact.

I urge the support of all Members for this important legislation.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE GANDHI-KING SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE INITIATIVE ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act of 2009. The purpose of this legislation is to create three international initiatives that take the philosophy and examples of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and apply them to current day issues.

In recent years, increasing youth violence has been the center of national headlines. Gangs, drug abuse, stabbings, shootings, bullying, unnecessary harm and heartache plagues schools and communities from Atlanta to Chicago and in unsuspecting urban, rural,

and suburban areas all around and in between. In response to this alarming trend, I introduced the SAFETY through Nonviolence Act, a bill that would teach the doctrine of nonviolence in thought, words and actions to students, educators, local police, and community leaders. In reality, Madam Speaker, violence, human rights abuses, discrimination, unprecedented poverty, and terrorism are devastating every corner of our globe, and despite so much progress, much work remains.

In February, I led a congressional delegation with my good friend, the Gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) to India to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King's visit to the country. With an official send-off from Secretary Clinton, the delegation was welcomed by the Indian government and Indian people. Martin Luther King, III, his wife, Mrs. Arndrea Waters, and outstanding musicians from the Thelonius Monk Institute of Jazz also celebrated this historic visit with concerts, meetings, and ceremonies across the country.

The congressional delegation also met with Indian government officials, business leaders, and non-governmental organizations on issues of terrorism, democracy, human rights, child labor and trafficking, poverty, and international conflicts. Each of us returned to the United States inspired and determined in our own way to see how we could apply our experiences, our shared history, and the legacies of these two great men to some of the issues facing the international community. How can we build a new generation that understands the benefit of peace?

This legislation responds to that question. The Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act of 2009 would create an undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate student exchange program in which students would travel to significant sites of the American Civil Rights Movement and the Indian Independence Movement. They would then develop proposals on how to apply the philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. to modern issues such as human rights, peaceful conflict resolution, civil rights, and democracy.

The second initiative created by this bill is a professional training module for international state, local and national government employees from conflict regions to develop international conflict solutions based on Gandhian principles.

Last but not least, the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act would develop an annual public diplomacy forum to be held alternately in the United States and India which will focus on the philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. in the resolution of global conflicts.

I believe that each person must ask themselves how we can make this little piece of real estate that we call Earth, a little cleaner, a little greener, a little safer, a little more peaceful. Gandhi once said that, "If we are to reach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children." The Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act of 2009 does just that and a little bit more.

Madam Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will support this good, common-sense legislation that should be a cornerstone of our public diplomacy efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 478 (on motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 135), "no" on rollcall vote No. 479 (on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1129).

HONORING MS. JANE MARKHAM

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Jane Markham, a dedicated member of my district office staff. Jane's last day as a Congressional Aide and District Representative in our office will be August 1, 2009, and she deserves our wholehearted appreciation for her work.

Jane Markham began her career working for Congress in 1997 as District Director and Field Representative for Congresswoman Darlene Hooley and in 2003 she came to Chicago, Illinois to work for Congressman Rahm Emanuel, serving as a Congressional Aide and District Representative. She was instrumental to my transition into Congress and has served the needs of countless constituents of the 5th District.

While Jane's dedication and integrity will be sorely missed, her infectious personality and jovial attitude will be irreplaceable. Her sense of humor and vivacity are her trademark and our district staff will be at a loss without her unfaltering ability to make a person smile. Jane's family has always been a priority in her life. She and her husband David Cameron are the proud parents of their children, Mira and Julia.

We thank Jane for her time in our office, both as a co-worker tirelessly dedicated to constituent services and as a friend. We wish her all the best in the future knowing wherever that she may be, Jane will be going there with a confidence and liveliness that will be felt by all.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, in accordance with House Republican Conference standards, and Clause 9 of Rule XXI, I submit the following member requests for the record regarding H.R. 3327, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010.

Project: Hyperspectral Imaging for Improved Force Protection (HYPER-IFP)

Account: Department of Defense, Army, RDT&E (CERDEC, NVESD, Special Projects)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Clean Earth Technologies, LLC.

Address of Requesting Entity: 13378 Lakefront Drive, Earth City, MO, USA

Description of Request: To provide \$2,000,000 for the Hyper-IFP (Hyper spectral Sensor for Improved Force Protection) Program. The introduction of a Hyper-IFP in FY08 is allowing the detection and recognition of humans (with a near zero false alarm rate) and providing indication of other certain physiological triggers that can indicate that a person is under extreme stress such as contemplating "bad" behavior. To date successful development, test and evaluation has been done in the lab, though these systems have not been fully optimized for theatre operation or for costs. The continued funding of Hyper-IFP will operationalize and integrate the knowledge gain in the lab and apply it in a true-fielded application at an affordable cost. The Hyper-IFP system will also be environmentally hardened to allow field deployment and allow integration with other FP sensors in the last quarter of 2009. Hyper-IFP is focused on the missions of Perimeter Security, Suicide Bomb Detection and Urban Route Recon. Utility will be demonstrated through an evaluation in both the Southwest border and contingency mission in Southwest Asia. This effort will require leveraging the current Force Protection sensor suite designs for the missions sites to maintain interoperability. In the end, this request focuses on both achieving data verification, and the delivery of sufficient hardware to validate the Technical Data package for re-procurement as well as demonstrate the system's ability to deploy to DoD/DHS users for the missions described. The Night Vision Electronic Sensors Directorate, Ft. Belvoir Virginia, is very supportive of this project.

Project: Aircrew Body Armor and Load Carriage Vest System

Account: Other Procurement—U.S. Air Force

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Eagle Industries

Address of Requesting Entity: 1000 Biltmore Drive, Fenton, MO 63026

Description of Request: To provide \$3,000,000 to issue the Aircrew Body Armor Load Carriage Vest System, an integrated body armor vest system, to aircrew personnel. The system provides fire retardancy and ballistics protection from a wide array of threats including small arms fire, fragmenting shrapnel and spall, while decreasing the heat stress and weight burdens faced by airmen. Currently issued aircrew flight equipment survival vests are not body armor-compatible due to weight, heat, and survivability concerns. Current issue is not fire retardant and fails to meet the present needs of the U.S. Air Force. Of the \$3 million, approximately 25% is for materials; 25% is for labor; and 50% is for armor and armor integration.

This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the U.S. Air Force-Other Procurement account. If funded in full, this is a one-time funding request with the goal of the Air Force using internally budgeted funding to continue fielding the system to aircrew personnel.

A TRIBUTE TO TUMBLEWEED SMITH

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize distinguished writer, speaker, and entertainer, Bob Lewis, better known as Tumbleweed Smith. Tumbleweed Smith is both creator and producer of the renowned radio program The Sound of Texas. August 1, 2009 will mark the celebration of 40 prosperous years on the air, making The Sound of Texas the longest running syndicated radio program in Texas.

In his 40 years of interviews, Tumbleweed Smith has accumulated the largest private collection of oral history in the United States. His one-man shows have been performed all over Texas, as well as six other states, and three other countries.

In addition to being an influential entertainer, Tumbleweed Smith has won international recognition for his advertising and production work. His honors include two CLIO advertising awards, the Governor's Award for Tourism, the West Texas Chamber of Commerce Cultural Achievement award and two Freedom Foundation awards.

The Texas House of Representatives has recognized Tumbleweed "for creating a priceless resource of Texas folk tales, lore and wisdom." He was honored by the Texas House of Representatives in 1999 for his outstanding communication skills and radio service to West Texas. In 2008 he was recognized by the Texas State Senate for celebrating his 10,000th program of The Sound of Texas.

Mr. Lewis resides in Big Spring, TX with his wife Susan and they have two sons, two daughters-in-law, and four grandsons. He writes a syndicated weekly news column and teaches radio production in the Permian Basin. Tumbleweed Smith is a true gem to West Texas. I am proud to honor his achievements and look forward to more of his unique and entertaining work in the future.

TAXPAYER RESPONSIBILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND CONSISTENCY ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, earlier today I introduced legislation—the Taxpayer Responsibility, Accountability, and Consistency Act. The aim of this legislation is to reverse the growing trend of the misclassification of employees as independent contractors. Independent contractors serve a legitimate purpose in our workforce, our economy, and in many business models. These contractors are important to our economy and often provide the flexibility that many businesses need. Some employers, however, are using a loophole that exists in the Internal Revenue Code to treat workers that are actually employees as contractors in order to reduce their own tax liability and avoid federal and state labor law. When employees are misclassified as contractors, responsible companies lose business,